

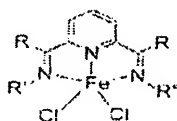
IN THE CLAIMS:

The pending claims are set forth below and have been amended and/or cancelled, without prejudice, where noted:

1-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing bimodal polyethylene polymer comprising:

covalently bonding~~combining~~ porous functionalized polystyrene beads with a catalyst is represented by the formula (I)



wherein R is a methyl group and R' and R'' are phenyl groups both substituted at the 2 and 6 positions with methyl, isopropyl or tertiary butyl groups and wherein the combining of said beads with said catalyst is carried out under a vacuum followed by increasing pressure;

obtaining styrene supported catalyst;

washing the polystyrene supported catalyst;

supplying the styrene supported catalyst to a first reaction zone;

maintaining the first reaction zone under conditions effective to obtain porous polyethylene beads;

combining the porous polyethylene beads with polymerization catalyst component and subjecting the combination to reduced pressure thereby obtaining supported catalyst;

washing the supported catalyst;

supplying the supported catalyst to a second reaction zone;

maintaining the second reaction zone under conditions effective to obtain bimodal polyethylene polymer; and

obtaining bimodal polyethylene polymer.

49-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the porous polystyrene beads are contacted with said catalyst for a period within the range of one half to about two hours.

53-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said polystyrene supported catalyst is washed with said solvent for a period of time within the range of 20 seconds to 2 minutes.